

The Use of the Particle “le” (了)

- The main function of the le (了) is to change the action from present tense to the past tense in a sentence.
ex. change “do” to “did”
- Le (了) appears after the action verb.



Example Sentences

1 **Present:** Shane, 请看书。
Past: Shane 看了书。

2 **Present:** Michael, 请唱“我和你”。
Past: Michael 唱了“我和你”。

3 **Present:** 小高: 来, 我介绍一下, 这是我姐姐高小音。
Past: 小高给王朋和李友介绍了他姐姐高小音。

Grammar Points

- In the event of two verbs in a sentence, le (了) is always placed after the main action.
- Sometimes the particle le (了) can be placed after the object of the verb in the object is short (i.e. one syllable)
ex. Nick 去喝了水。 OR Nick 去喝水了。
- Le (了) can be omitted if the sentence has a time adverbial already describing past tense.
ex. 昨天晚上, 我去看朋友。

Summarization

The particle le (了) is used to change a sentence from present tense to past tense. It is placed after the main action verb in a sentence.

Questions

1. What exceptions are there in the usage of le (了)?
2. What other types of past tense sentences do not require the use of le (了)?